



File Code: 2400
Route To:

Date: AUG 14 2015

Subject: Review Process for Healthy Forest Restoration Act Section 602(c), Additional Insect and Disease Landscape-Scale Area Designations

To: Chief

In response to your letter of July 10, 2015, Region 9 proposes the entire Wayne National Forest (Forest) be designated as an insect and disease landscape-scale area under the provisions of Section 8204 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Farm Bill). At this time, no part of the Forest is designated as an insect and disease area, however, the Forest has significant insect and disease problems meeting the criteria outlined in the Farm Bill. The Forest documentation of this proposal is enclosed.

Annual insect and disease surveys of the Forest documented on the Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team (FHTET) webpage show that in 2014 there was significant damage from Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), oak wilt, and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA). Collectively, the damage from these three pests occurs across the entire Forest. Oaks in the red oak group, which make up the greatest part of the forest cover, are especially susceptible to oak wilt Hemlock which is important in certain riparian areas on the Forest, is especially susceptible to HWA. While ash does not comprise a large part of the forest cover, more than 99.9 percent of ash trees expected to die due to EAB. In addition, the National Insect and Disease Risk Map documents significant risk to native elms as a result of Dutch elm disease. In addition to the risks, documented on the FHTET website, the Forest is located near outbreaks of gypsy moth, thousand cankers disease, and Asian longhorned beetle that could easily become a problem in a short time.

The Forest anticipates being able to make use of these authorities. One example would be in gypsy moth management when the Forest has a recurring need to analyze projects quickly in order to apply treatments in a timely manner.

If you have questions, please contact the Region 9 Farm Bill Coordinator Paul Berrang pberrang@fs.fed.us at (414) 297-3569 or the Wayne National Forest Natural Resources Staff Officer Jason A. Reed jareed02@fs.fed.us at (740) 753-0684.

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Enclosures (2)

cc: Jacob Donnay, Jason A. Reed, Carrie Gilbert, Paul Berrang

